

December 16, 2005
Case No. CR00302M (9640/87)
Serial No.: 10/046,444
Filed: October 19, 2001
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Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for her many courtesies in the phone calls with Applicants' counsel on December 9, 2005 and also December 12 and 13.

The Examiner's objection to the drawings has been obviated with the submission of a replacement figure 1.

The Examiner's objection to the specification has been obviated by placing the equation numbers near the corresponding formula.

The Examiner's objection to claims 1, 3, and 21 is traversed. The claimed "first set of soft estimates of bits" and "the second iteration is a function of a first set of soft symbol estimates" is not inconsistent. Specifically, the "first set of soft estimates of bits" differs from the "first set of soft symbol estimates."

As noted in the specification, pages 8-9, the first set of soft estimates of bits is generated by the MAP decoder 20, while the first set of soft symbol estimates is estimated by the soft estimates module 23. Since the claim elements are distinct, the claim is not inconsistent.

The Examiner's objection to claims 5-20, and 23-30 has been obviated by adding a description of the elements in the equations. No new matter has been added with these claim amendments, and each claim amendment was not made to avoid any reference, but rather to clarify the claims.

Withdrawal of all objections to the drawings, specification, and claims is requested.

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No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references. As the Applicant has overcome all substantive rejections given by the Examiner the Applicant contends that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's rejections to the pending claims. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter. Finally, please charge any fees (including extension of time fees) or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502117.

Dated: December 16, 2005

Respectfully submitted,
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